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**BACKGROUND**

The Paper Chat teaching strategy is a cooperative teaching and learning strategy that empowers students to take part in group activities. It is a helpful strategy to use when there are broad essential questions that engender deep discussion and you want everyone in the room to be involved without judgment. The Paper Chat strategy helps students develop critical thinking and communication skills, in addition to developing patience and respect.

**EXAMPLE**

* Spread butcher paper across a large table or a number of desks pushed together. Place a pile of markers on or near the butcher paper -- enough so that every student has one.
* Compose a thoughtful question that will require deep conversation (i.e. not a “yes” or “no” question and not a question based in fact): “How is MLK Jrʼ s speech, I Have a Dream, still relevant today?”
* Have students watch the video segment, “I Have a Dream” about Martin Luther King Jrʼs speech.
* Ask the students to discuss this question in silence, using only their markers.
* Explain to students that they can circle or underline or otherwise mark their own or others’ comments. They can also draw lines between or to comments to draw attention to a conversation. The only rules are that they need to keep thinking and contributing... and they need to stay silent.
* Give students 10 minutes to have the silent conversation.
* Facilitate a group discussion about the content: What new ideas did they consider? What do they think their answer is to the original question (“How is MLK Jrʼ s speech still relevant today?”) and why?
* Facilitate a debriefing discussion about the process of silent conversation: Was it frustrating? Was it fun? Was it easier or harder to make and understand points? Any other insights?

**Standard:**

**Digital Literacy Focus:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_Search, find and retrieve digital information

\_\_\_\_\_\_Understand and interpret digital information

\_\_\_\_\_\_Evaluate digital information and use relevant evidence to judge its quality

\_\_\_\_\_\_Communicate digital information and collaborate with peers colleagues, family and on occasion the general public

**CREATE:**

Use diverse technologies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_